GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1317
ANSWERED ON:26.02.2003
UNIVERSAL FUNDS FOR TELECOMMUNICATION SECTOR
RASA SINGH RAWAT

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have set up any universal funds from the contributions made by private and public sector telecommunication companies;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the manner in which the Government propose to utilize the funds;

(d) whether the Government have also received licence fee from the public sector company namely BSNL;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether the Government propose to give any relaxation to BSNL keeping in view its services to urban and rural areas throughout the country; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI S MAHAJAN)

(a) to (c) Steps have been initiated for setting up of universal service fund from the contributions made by private and public sector telecommunication companies. The percentage of universal service levy has been fixed as five percent of the adjusted gross revenue. The guidelines for utilization of universal service fund have also been publicized by the Government.

(d)&(e) Yes, Sir. License fee amounting to Rs. 1725 Crores (inclusive of universal service levy) has been received till 21-02-2003 for the financial year 2002-2003.

(f)&(g) No, Sir. Government does not propose to grant any relaxation to BSNL in terms of implementation of the universal service support policy.